to take appropriate steps consulting the State Government for a proposal which could figure in the Plan Document to save this city.

(v) Need to Provide Financial Assistance to Government of West Bengal For Completion of Sunderbans Delta Project Phase II

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (JOYNAGAR): The Central Government was kind enough to consider the proposal regarding Sundarbans Delta Project-Phase-II submitted by the State Government of West Bengal sometime back. About 3400 k.m. embankment of Sunderbans river is vulnerable to high time flood and all other calamities. The Sunderbans though renowned for its flora and fauna and unique bio-diversity, does not have any industry and the poor people of the area live only on the catching of fish and cutting of wood. This Project was a part of the Ganga Flood Control. The West Bengal Government, as you know, Sir, is suffering from acute financial crunch and thus unable to proceed with the project, which is causing utmost distress to the people of this area. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 225.39 crore. I wonder whether any provision for this project has been made in the Tenth Five Year Plan or not. Sir, it is high time that the Central Government comes to the rescue of the poor Sunderbans inhabitants and save them from the vagaries of the Sunderbans river and render necessary financial help to the West Bengal Government to go ahead with this project.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH-CENTRAL): Mr. Speaker. Sir, yesterday an explosion took place in Satara district of Maharashtra. 58 persons died and 22 persons injured in the incident. We would like to seek information from the Union Government that today R.D.X. is being smuggled into the country at large scale. R.D.X. has been recovered from Gujarat. Hon. Home Minister is here in the House, A.K. 47 and other weapons are being smuggled into the country. Weapons have been dropped in West Bengal. He may tell from where the weapons are coming from ? How many weapons have been recovered and still being smuggled into the country? I.S.I. wants to create turbulence. Earlier, myself alongwith Our hon. leader Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar had raised this issue. The fact has come into light in Mumbai. A photo has been published along with the caption 'A plot to assassinate Bal Thakarey unearthed' in a newspaper. One person named Salafi, who has entered into Maharashtra through I.S.I. has been arrested in Maharashtra. He had come to Maharashtra with an intention to blow 'Matushi', the house of Bal Thakarey Sahab near our office "Saamna". Explosion occured in Mumbai and Andhra Pradesh. He was involved in these incidents also. We would like to ask the Government if they would inform us about the increase in the ISI activities ? Today people are trying to kill Bala Sahab Thakarey. We would like to have a statement in this regard from the Government. We had raised this issue the other day also but Home Minister was not present here at that time. Today, he is here in this House. Through You, I request him to give a statement in this regard....(interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No, please. Since this was a serious matter, I allowed it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now we have to start the general discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, you cannot get response every time in the Zero Hour. Without notice how do you expect the Minister to reply ?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: The Government had said that the statement would be issued. Then why statement is not being issued...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a State problem.

[English]

This is a matter, law and order, relating to the State Government and the State Government will look into it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow you today. You cannot go on violating the procedure of the House everyday. have given the floor to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

GENERAL BUDGET—1997-98—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

12.22 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Finance Minister of India, Shri Palani Appan Chidambaram had presented his budgets on 28th February. It is 14th March today. Just two weeks have passed by yet the change in the fiscal atmosphere is discernable. I recall the carnival like evening of February 28th when the people were given to understand that this budget had cleared off the cloudy sky to give them a peep into the Starry future ahead. This unelouded budgetary luster seemed to indicate that the country had emerged from the gloomy situation of economic crisis and the affluent future was waiting ahead. However, within 14 days this euphoria have fizzled out and the clouds cleared off by him seem to eclipse the stars again. Hon. Speaker Sir,

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why have those, who welcomed and lauded this budget as a dream budget, been rendered witless ? Some one on 28th February or 1st March had termed this budget as the finest budget of last several decades. Some other had written that Shri Chidambaram had made the impossible possible. This title seems to have indicated as if this discussion is not on the Indian budget but on a Cricket match heading for a certain defeat. but that very moment our best batsman like Tendulkar came in and turned the complexion of the game. I have no doubts that Shri Chidambaram is a sharp intellect and also an authority on economic affairs, however I would like to endorse the views of Shri Manmohan Singh—earstwhile colleague of Shri Chidambaram that the euphoria created by this budget will not persist for long.

Hon. Speaker Sir, the making of budget is a serious exercise and it should not be glamourised. The budgets, particularly in developing countries, are milestones on the path of economic development and we should refrain from converting it into a dream budget. This kind of quibbling may lead a person to ask that if this budget is a dream budget then, whose dreams this budget has been made of and which dreams this budget has been made of. In a country where half of the population hardly know anything about budget making exercise, the budget making exercise should be taken up seriously however it has not been so. The budget presented by Shri Chidambaram on 28th Febuary seems to indicate that this staggering Government is trying to make an impression, though in vain, that though those are some chinks in the U.F. but everything is fine at the economic front. This budget has been an utter failure in paying attention to those points which have been highlighted in its non-economic review report for 1996-97. In a situation when as per the data of the Government the prices fo food items have gone up by 30 per cent, it was expected that the budget would bring down the prices. Unfortunately the Government concentrated just on containing the inflation rate. It is quite unprecedented that the Government did not make any serious effort to check the rising prices during the past some time. Even then this Government can not claim any credit for the fall in the inflation rate. It has doubled in the last six months.

This budget would hit the common massed hard. A burden of 1800 crores has been encumbered upon the common people. Though the steep hike in the rates of rail fares and freight charges and 300 crores rupees burden has to be borne by the people because of the increase in the rates of Post and Telegraph. Imposition of one new tax will affect the people comprehensively and the Government intends to mop up 1200 crores through this tax. The oil pool deficit stands at 19,000 crores and the Government has not explained as to how it will meet it. The implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report involve the financial implications of seven thousand crores and during the current year, the Government will have to spend around 5,000 crores and if the Government still claims that this budget will benefit the common people then, it is like rubbing salt to the wound.

The development projections made in this budget are quite unrealistic and exaggerated. The projection for G.D.P. growth rate is 7 per cent which include 10 per cent growth in industry, 3.5 per cent in agriculture sector and 8 per cent in service sector. Every body including myself wishes that there should be speedy development in the country but we would not overlook the stumbling blocks on the path of development. There is acute shortage of water which is to continue in future also. Which is likely to cast adverse effect on the industrial production and several other fields. Our agriculture is rainfed If we have good rainfall then, there is bumper crop otherwise it is all drought, scarcity and crisis. We have had good monsoons during last 8-9 years. If we do not have good rain, though I do not wish to be so, then all our projections would prove wrong. Therefore, while making projections for future, we should not be unpragmatic. The estimated recovery of 1200 crores through the newly imposed service tax is also on higher side and deficiency supply side may come in the way. A sum of 8,000 crores is to be spent for supplying cereals to the poor at subsidised rates. Estimates in this regard should be worked out.

Sir, as far as creating opportunities are concerned the present budget and much hyped policies of the Government do not seem employment oriented. The Eighth Five Year Plan document had envisaged creation of 100 million jobs in the period of 1991-2000 that means 10 million jobs per year. However not even six million jobs have been created in the last six years. Which steps the Government have taken so as to create 12-15 million jobs per year in the next few years ? I think, the fault lies with those Governments which utterly failed in creating physical and social infrastructure in the country.

I was shocked to find in the financial review that public capital investment in the agriculture sector has declined during 15-16 years. It is perhaps the first occassion since the green revolution that our foodgrains production did not match with our increasing population. Per capita foodgrains consumption has gone down from 184 Kg to 181 kg. This shortfall may however seem insignificant but in actual terms it has caused steep hike in the rates of wheat in the market.

The U.F. Government may say that it is not responsible for these failures and to some extent it is true however it can not exonerate itself fully. One sentence in the Presidential Address which was later on struck off, indicated towards it. There is no precedent till date that a sentence has been struck off in the Presidential Address after it has reached into the hands of the Members and this correction has been made in such a manner that even after striking out the sentence is perfectly, legible.

It could have been done more prudently. Nevertheless I seek the U.F. Government's clarification in this regard. Could I remind them that they have spent less funds in all departments of social sector than the allotted amount. In the U.F. Government's previous year budget an amount of Rs. 20,324 crores was earmarked for the social sector including the rural development. However only 18,805

crores rupees have been spent. The details of the less amount spent in various sectors is as under:

In education, only 2571 crores have been spent against the allocation of 3388 Crores. For rural employment and poverty alleviation programme Rs. 6437 crores were earmarked but out of that only 5977 crores were spent. In agriculture and cooperative sector 1338 crores were spent against allocation of 1471 crores. For irrigation and flood control only 815 crore were spent against the allocation of 1248 crores. A suggestion was given to constitute an expenditure commission which has been shelved.

There has to be some Government agency to monitor whether the funds allocated are utilized properly. The finance Minister is pointing towards Shri Jaswant Singh, but shirking from the responsibility will not serve any purpose. The present Government is responsible and under utilization of funds in education, rural development, rural employment, poverty alleviation, agriculture, cooperative, irrigation and flood control is a matter of concern. Do we not need development in these sectors ? There are constant complaints of the scarcity of funds but when the House gives more funds to the Government then the Government is not able to utilise full grants. There are core sectors owing to which the pace of our development has been impeded.

The Finance Minister has declared in this year budget that the Government will spend 23,000 crores rupees in social sectors including education and rural development. This amount is 22 percent more than the last year allocation.

This declaration was welcomed by the entire House. This figure is quite impressive however the performance in 1996-97 has been quite disappointed. There is a big gap between the projection and the implementation. I am not discussing here the issue of corruption of Government funds by political leaders and bureaucrates. I think all may recall how Late Shree Rajiv Gandhi had said that only 16 paise out of centre's 1 rupee reaches for implementation.

Hon' Speaker Sir, this budget would further widen the gap between the rich and the poor. If the amount of 23,000 crore is spent in future then, it amounts only 1.6 per cent of the G.D.P. This figure is 0.2 per cent less than the amount spent by the Congress Government in its last year rule, 0.1 per cent of G.D.P. is not trial amount. Infact it amounts to Rs. 1400 crores. This is now obvious that with the claim of strengthening of the economy, the Government expenditure in the social sector, education and rural development will go down. Which will also affect the gap between the rich and the poor resulting in social strifes which should not be overlooked. The funds spent in social sector, education and rural development have gone down from 1.7 per cent of G.D.P. in 1995-96 to 1.5 per cent of G.D.P. in 1996-97. The reality is that this Government is spending less funds on primary education than several Governments of Sub-Sahara region of Africa.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, as per the economic review of 1994-95, the wages of agriculture labourer which had gone down by 0.5 per cent in 1994-95, has gone down by 0.7 percent in 1995-96. These are average figures which provide logical base to assume that the poorest landless labourers and the landless labourers engaged in the poorest sectors have been the victims of maximum deduction in wages.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, it is quite strange that even after 50th year of our independence we are not able to estimate the exact figure of poors in our country. The slogans of 'Garibi Hatao'(alleviate poverty) are shouted. There is nothing wrong in it but these should be implemented as well. The poverty is a social evil, a curse but does the figure of poor in the country fluctuate ? Can we not prescribe a criterion for it ? Can we not have unanimity on it ? Will the figure of poverty be worked out on political lines ? This Government has recently made a declaration that people living below poverty line will be provided foodgrains at cheaper rates. The states have been asked to ascertain the number of people living below poverty line. Have these states got these figures ? Were the decisions taken so far in this regard not correct ? How can we formulate effective policies for poverty alleviation when we do not have the exact number of people living below poverty lines.

Some new figures have come up according to which the number of people living below poverty line has doubled i.e. from 160 million to 320 million. If these figures are true then, 36 per cent people are living below poverty line. I do not know how far these figures are correct ...*(Interruptions)* Are you not accepting these new figures?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA): You are saying that this figure has doubled. If it is so, this is matter of concern. Therefore, you should ask the person who has given you these figures.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE. No, nobody gave me these figures, I am an educated person....*(Interruptions)*

I am speaking on the basis of the figures which published in "The Times of India" two days back. Being in the opposition, we can not gather figures, this is the job of those who are sitting on the other side. Still Shri Yadav Ji would agree with me that we all are genuinely interested in alleviating poverty ? This is noble job but we should have exact figures in this regard.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir, overcoming poverty is our national cause and prosperity is our goal. However, instead of motivating the people for hard labour we should not indulge in party politics in these figures.

Sir, the fiscal deficit is mainly due to lack of discipline and good management which needs to be checked. We should not forget that the revised estimate of expenditure on the central plan has gone down below 10,000 crores.

Previously this estimate in budget was rupees 87,686 crore which now has reduced to Rs. 77,718 crore. The

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budget estimates for 1997-98 for which the Minister of Finance has landed himself that it is the largest estimates in the recent past whereas it is only rupees 4000 crore more than the budget estimates of last years. If the pace of increase in the inflation rate of 8 per cent is taken into account, it will be less then the last years estimate.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as such the actual expenditure on planning has decreased. The unproductive non-plan expenditure of the Government is increasing year after year. As I have said that the Minister of Finance has not paid any attention towards Oil Pool Deficit. The present rate of consumption of petroleum products is around rupees 19000 crore. If we consume petroleum products on the line of developed countries then what will be the quantum of deficit. I leave it to you. When we see the decrease of 10 per cent in domestic production of petroleum products and oil then the picture of heavy decrease in petroleum products come to our mind. Fortunately the prices in international market have fallen in the recent past. An opportunity to convert loss into profit is with us. The need of the hour is that we should take steps to change the financial structure of Companies in oil sector and make efforts to increase capacity of entire oil sector keeping in view the increase in the capacity of oil refineries and crude oil production.

The Prime Minister Shri Deve Gowda, who is present in the House tries to identify himself as poor farmer and this is good image. Unfortunately, I cannot do so but inspite of this the facilities given to agricultural and rural poors are of cosmetic nature. These have no depth. As I have said that the production of food grains does not keep pace with our increasing population. The production of wheat has decreased by 3.15 million tonne in 1996-97. The Government have decided to import two million tonne of wheat. There is a gap of 940 million tonne between the consumption and production of edible oils. 1.99 lakh tonne of Palmolin was imported by STC during April to December 1996. It costs 295 crores of rupees. Under OGL 9.40 lakh million tonne of more edible oil was imported which costs rupees 2195 crores.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, justice has not been done to small industries. If I say that injustice has been done to them then no one should have any objection. It is right that the multinational companies are happy over this. The industrial houses in the country also seem satisfies over this but it should be kept in mind what problems are being faced by the small industries. Maximum opportunities of employment are provided by the small scale sector. These have considerable contribution in the export but they have to face high rate of interest. Loan is not available to them. The decrease in the general industrial recession and across the board reduction in custom duty is harmful. Most objectionable aspect is that by dereserving the production of 14 articles of small industry the Government have left them on the mercy of big countries and big companies. What is the necessity of dereservation ? Biscuits and Ice-cream come under it. If good biscuits can be produced in small sector then what is the need of doing so on large scale. Small scale is actually not the small scale in this country. What is the problem if Ice-cream is manufactured in small scale? Are we unable to produce delicious biscuit in our country? Whether it will require multinational companies?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR) : How this "Pan Masalla" has been left out ?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I do not eat pan and I do not talk about masalla.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the public sector banks have started showing results. It is necessary that we should learn lesson from our previous mistakes and do not repeat them. The maximum problems of banks are due to non-payments and non-performing assets. The banks should publish the list of non-performing banks within a specified limit.

The Minister of Finance has announced concession for black marketeers. I will comment on it later on. It is also necessary that the list of those who have not paid more than Rs. 5 lakh be published by these bank. The second list should be of non-performing seekers. This information must be there in the annual balance sheet of banks in public sector.

The Minister of Finance has made effort to widen the tax base. It should have been made earlier. We agree with this effort. There are only one crore or 20 lakh Income Tax payers in such a vast country and there are only 12 thousand people whose income is more than 10 lakh.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM) : Even the figure of one crore and 22 lakh does not refer to individuals only; it includes companies and other bodies also. There are only 88 lakh individuals who pay tax.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : This is correct. For a change, I agree with him.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If you sit, when I speak, I hope to wean you away not from BJP but from your views.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Sir, the Communists are no longer Communists. I do not mind to be dubbed as a non-BJP person..... *(Interruptions).*

[Translation]

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, BJP has been making a constant demand for transparency in financial matters and we want that the actual position of the country, the tax given on the income of individuals and corporate sector should be made available to the masses. Its information should be given. There is place for confidentiality but to the extent that same food policy continue to prosper in the name of confidentiality.

I was astonished to read the report of three progresses of Florida University that more than 11 billion dollar has been siphoned off from India to other countries during 1994

and 1996. It is done by indulging in over invoicing of import and under invoicing of export which is going on openly.

I am sure that Government should look into it and it is not good that such activities are going on even after liberalisation and globalisation and now black money has been allowed free hand. I also going to mention about it. People can convert their black money into white and by paying just 30 per cent tax. Those who have been honestly paying more tax will presume that they are being penalised.

Corporate tax is also 35 per cent and those who will pay under voluntary disclosure scheme will convert their black money into white by just paying 30 per cent tax. If I am wrong I would like that Minister of Finance may correct.

Bharatiya Janata Party cannot see the budget of United Front in isolation. It is also difficult to remember the number of 13-14 parties, it is conglomeration of these, the identity of which is being projected by another fourteenth party. As I have said that Shri Chidambaram can neither appreciate Congress nor can criticise it. By criticising there is fear of losing support and by appreciating there is fear of losing public support.

Increasing financial loss, decrease in capital investment in agriculture and complete neglect of the development of infrastructure is the legacy of Congress regime. I am unable to understand on one hand, income tax rate is being reduced from 40 per cent to 30 per cent by the Finance Minister and on the other hand efforts are being made to being those in the ambit of income tax who have a house, a telephone, a car and performed foreign trip. Is it necessary, is it feasible ? I can understand that they want to widen their tax net but it should no happen that the crocodiles are left out and small fishes are trapped in the net of Chidambaram. We do not agree with the reduction of income tax from 40 per cent to 30 per cent.

I know it can go against popularity while in opposition but should a person earning in a poor country not be prepared to give 40 per cent of his income in the treasury? Was it necessary to reduce this ? Now once it is reduced the Minister of Finance cannot go back. But it is one of the thread of that world which the Minister of Finance wanted to weave. He should see how to reduce tax of big industrialists, capitalists, think about share market, how the sensex is going on falling down. Previously it was very high whether we will depend only on this ? It should be considered that to what extent this decision is correct. There is one more aspect of it. The tax of that person has been reduced who used to give tax before. Now rupees 50 thousand can be saved on five lakhs. He will not have to pay 50 thousand as tax. His income will increase. What will he do with these 50 thousand rupees? Whether he will indulge in concession ? Whether he will have it or spent it ? But the Minister of Finance has not shown any way of savings. If rupees 50 thousand is saved on five lakh then this 50 thousand must be invested in development, it should invested in the nation building. Budget speech of Minister of Finance is totally silent about any new insurance scheme. We do not want the people in the country indulge in wasteful expenditure, it will increase the gap. Already the gap in the country has been increasing. There is a need to bridge this gap. There is need of reducing this gap. There is need to tell the people that your tax has been reduced but do not spend it in five star hotel, save it invest it in the development of country. I have not seen any such appeal, any step in the speech of Minister of Finnace.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : Som Nath Ji says that it is growth oriented.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I have already mentioned that the voluntary disclosure scheme is an illegal step. Previously also there has been voluntary disclosure scheme. It has not prevented black money. There is need of attacking the very basis of black money. There is a need to think seriously when liberalisation has taken place and control regulation has been reduced then why black money is being generated in such large quantity. It is not that our duty is completed by just converting black money into white. Sometimes it appears that voluntary disclosure scheme is a mockery on honesty. But whole of the budget of Finance Minister is a puzzle of Lucknow. You cannot go out of this side from where you enter. It is an allusion. As I have said budget is a serious exercise. It is a serious step. The budget should inculcate the sense of enthusiasm in common man. It should encourage the common man to save. It should be seen that where the tax collected will go where it is going, which sort of imbalance is taking place. There is no tariff commission. The goods coming from other countries are getting cheaper day by day and the goods manufactured in the country are not getting the same treatment, why ? How will they survive, excise should also be reduced in their case. There is need to save domestic industries. Liberal economy does not mean that foreign companies come and start usurping the domestic industries. They have started usurping one after another company. They are say that they will manufacture such items which are needed. Once it can be considered that they may be allowed limited concessions. But they are not interested in manufacturing items, but in profit. Everyone wants to earn profit but at what cost ? How much price we are ready to pay. There is need to consider it seriously.

Minister of Finance says that we will recover taxes more effectively. If rate is reduced, more people will pay taxes. Originally will be encouraged. I have to see that to what extent this thought matters wth reality.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of concern that the debt on the country is increasing. We are spending more than the income. We pay 27 per cent of our income towards the interest on loan. It comes to rupees 68,000 crores. In 1980 this amount was rupees 1200 crores. In 1986-87, this amount increased to rupees 9246 crores now it is 68,000 crores. Are not we trapping in the grip of loan ? Is it the sign of prosperity ? In 1990-91, 48 per

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cent as interest in the fiscal deficit goes as interest. Now it has increased to 103 per cent. As far as the liabilities of the Government are concerned it has increased by rupees three lakh crores.

Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it is good thing that economic reforms are taking place in the country. But economic reforms cannot be successful without administrative reforms. What steps have been taken to improve administration ? Minister of Finance can say that this question is not in my jurisdiction. Can we implement economic reforms in such an administrative set up ? The administrative set up has crippled, has become corrupt, delay has become its nature. Can we take the country towards the prosperity with this administrative set up ? Money goes for the poverty eradication from the Central budget and we see in our respective constituencies that the money is not spent as it should be. Whom should we ask for reply ? Who is responsible ? We have already been talking about decontrol and deregularisation.

Today files are pending. Files are being delayed today also and when it is delayed then bribe comes. Our friends are aware of convenience charge rampant in Uttar Pradesh. Some sort of gratification has to be given for getting the work done there. It is known as convenience charge.... *(Interruptions)* administrative reform is necessary. Steel like bureaucratic set up established by Sardar Patel was praised at that time and we got benefit from that. That was suitable for that period. Today change is required and in that changing atmosphere if administration is not reformed, activated and the sense of responsibility towards people is not created in the administration, the benefit of economic reforms would not reach to the common people. We should understand this thing clearly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have mentioned about the shortage of electricity in the country. Hon. Minister has not given any indication as to how this shortage would be made up ? Electricity generation should be increased by 40000 M.W. Out of which 30000 M.W. electricity can be generated in Public Sector. It would require one lakh and fifty thousand crores rupees in five years. It means 3000 crores rupees per year should be provided for this purpose only seven hundred crores rupees have been provided in the budget to achieve this target. From where the remaining amount would come ? States can not provide this amount. To what extent we would depend on foreign investors ?

So far as the matter of Petroleum Pool is concerned, it requires a clarification. Government reap the benefit when there is profit from it but remain silent when there is losses. Hon. Finance Minister has stated the loss to the tune of Rs. 19000 crores in his speech but there is no mention about it that how would this loss be made up ? There is no indication of it. Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rs. 35000 crores are being spent on defence. It is essential. Defence of the country is supreme. Pension etc. have not been included in this amount of Rs. 35000 crores. It includes the capital expenditure of Rs. 8500 crores. It means that even one forth of the total expenditure is not being spent on the modernisation of the three armed forces. It is happening for the last 11 years. Everything is changing. Our forces should be modernised in terms of arms and ammunition, training and other equipments. It is very essential that they should meet the challenges of modernage. But there is no provision for it in the budget.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with one more point I would conclude my speech. There is cut throat competition between jute and plastic industries due to the budget proposals. Jute and Plastic both are essential items. So some balancing provision should be made so that both plastic and jute factories prosper side by side. Their interest should also be protected. It is not difficult. The question is this that in which the packing should be made ? In which the packing of cement will be profitable and durable. This proposal appears unilateral and due to which there is resentment among the plastic manufacturers. Hon. Finance Minister should think about that....(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Do not speak against jute....(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJAPAYEE: I have not spoken against jute....*(Interruption)* We want that the use of jute should be diversified. Items of jute should be manufactured....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You know that the Jute Development Council is doing that. But it cannot meet all....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: I think, you are the Chairman of that Council.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : No. I wish I were.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, now I want to conclude my speech. Hon. Finance Minister would excuse me if I say that it is not a full budget, it is a half budget and other half is yet to be come. Rosy picture has been presented before us, painful aspect is yet to be come.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Finance Minister should make the procedure of budget preparation transparent, there is no need to conceal anything. If excise duty has to be increased and any decision has to be taken on custom, it should be done in open and there should be discussion on it. National consensus should be evolved on it but it is not being done. If budget is used as a tool of vote catching, budget can not do justice towards the development of the country and when we test the present budget on this yardstick, we can not say that it is budget of poor and common man. However, no one can deny that big companies have been benefited from this budget. But at the same time we should not forget it that these big companies do not make Hindustan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Since, day before yesterday, the House was sitting the whole night, I want to give half an hour more today for your lunch.

13.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty-Five Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.51 hrs.

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled after Lunch at Fifty-One-Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

GENERAL BUDGET—1997-98—GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up General Discussion on the General Budget. Shri Sharad Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of budget presented by the National Front Government for this year. I would like to mention about the circumstances in details under which this budget has been presented.

Hon. Atalji has left the House. I was hearing him attentively. This is the second budget presented by the National Front Government. First of all we presented budget for six months and as per our strength we tested it in the economic conditions of the country for six months and today our Government have completed nine months. I appreciate the budget presented by Finance Minister Chidambaramji of our National Front Government but I am not saying so because I am a Member belonging to The National Front Government. You see every section of the country has supported and appreciated this budget whether it is middle class or businessman. Atalji was saying that it had gained praise a lot. We have presented this budget within our limits and our Finance Minister does not want that he should be praised. The people of this country whether they are toiling masses, middle class, industrialists or those who wish to strengthen this country and its economy have praised this budget which has been presented by Chidambaram Sahab under the leadership of the Prime Ministership of Shri Hardanhalli Deve Gowda. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is fiftieth year of our Independence and I admit that within these 50 years we can not save ourselves merely by saying that who was in power. Neither I am in Government nor in opposition, I am standing in the highest institution of the country. I do not want to say anything about the period prior to 50 years of independence but after independence we have run this country. The people of this country have formed the Government whether it is State Government or Central Government and the persons elected by the people have run this country for 50 years and within this period we have formed the economy. Those who remained in the power whether they were in Government or opposition extended their contribution to it. I admit that we got this set up as legacy. Atalji has rightly said that it is the Government of 13 parties. There is no doubt that many parties have formed this National Front Government, these parties have a number of independents and congress party against which we have fought is also extending its support to this Government. It is possible because of circumstances, once you were also in Government.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI (KOTA) : Your policies, principles and programmes have gone....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No comments please.

[Translation]

It is good to make comments sometimes but not like this....*(Interruptions)* Well, it does not matter, now he will not point at you.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Joshiji, you have said correctly that you were in the Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Yadav, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I agree with Joshiji that principles have changed and those who were in the Government, they are now in opposition and those who were in the opposition they are now in the Government. I admit this.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (MURSHIDABAD): You have forgotten that Congress and both these parties supported Chandrashekharji....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Joshiji in jolly mood, you say that do not look at him while speaking. He will not feel happy unless I look at him....*(Interruptions)*

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is sufficient.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Unless I say something, he does not feel happy. He is a son of soil and my memory also becomes fresh when I see him. He eats pure ghee and he is an Ayurvedic Vaidya. Agreeing with you I am expressing my views. You do not think that I am stating anything here as a member of treasury bench or opposition.